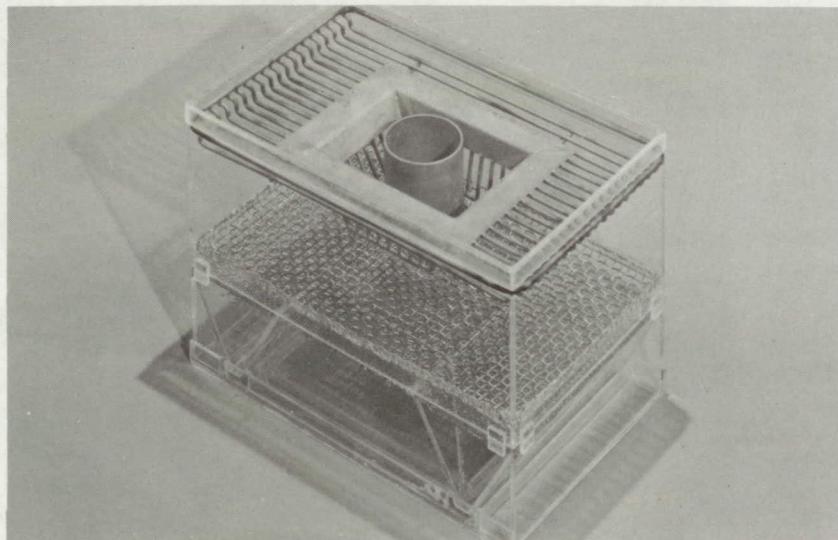


NASA TECH BRIEF



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Improved Mouse Cage Provides Versatility and Ease in Handling Laboratory Mice



MOUSE CAGE SYSTEM COMPLETE METABOLISM BASE

An improved mouse cage system has been developed to provide versatility and ease in handling laboratory mice, cleaning their cages, and collecting uncontaminated metabolic test specimens. These advantages are lacking in the conventional "shoe box" cage. Although modifications of the conventional hanging cage are free of these objectionable features, most of these cages can house only two or three mice comfortably, and all require suspension racks. Such racks waste space and are difficult to get into and out of isolator units.

The new cage can comfortably house six or more mice, is easy to clean and maintain behind an isolator (which excludes personnel), and facilitates the collection of separate, uncontaminated metabolic waste

products for laboratory analysis. The cage is free-standing and of compact design. It incorporates a screened bottom and funnel channel along the periphery of the base to collect urine samples. The area for feed and water is in the center of the cage top (not over one of the funnels), thereby precluding dilution or contamination of the urine. The bottom edge of the cage and the top edges of the two bases (standard base or metabolism base) are beveled to ensure that the urine flow is confined to the channels inside the cage.

With the cage on the standard base, urine and feces from the mice will fall through the screen onto the bottom of the base. To clean the system, the cage is lifted off the dirty base and set on a clean base. The

(continued overleaf)

dirty base is then emptied and cleaned. When separated urine and feces are to be collected, the cage is placed on the metabolism base for the allotted period. At the end of the period, the cage is moved to another base. The feces will be on the small-mesh screen top of the metabolism base. The urine will be in the channels of the metabolism base where it can be easily removed by a suction device.

Note:

Documentation is available from:

Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific
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Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

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